

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

21 APRIL 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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LATE ITEM

Laos

a. The crisis is not over. Although the principals are milling around in typical Lao fashion, the troops commanders in Vientiane have still not been brought under control.

b. In talks held with the King yesterday at Luang Prabang, Souvanna, Phoumi, and the troop leaders were unable to reach any agreement on the formation of a new government.

c. The King refused to accept Souvanna's resignation and said he would recognize--at least for the time being--the continued existence of the coalition government.

d. Although Souvanna told newsmen from the balcony of his villa this morning that his coalition government continues to function, the right-wing leaders still have him under house arrest.

(Cont'd)

e. Phoumi's position is also uncertain. He still appears to retain the loyalty of most of the rightist commanders outside the capital and is talking of a counter-coup. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

g. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] force might ultimately be required to overthrow the coup group.

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h. In the capital itself, coup leaders have improved their troop dispositions.

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[REDACTED]

j. Thonglith may be moving to take over leadership of the rightist forces.

k.

Thonglith is tough and ambitious. Thonglith, violently anti-neutralist and anti-Communist, has little understanding of the international issues involved.

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1. Cuba

a. Castro's speech on Sunday was his first strong attack on the Johnson administration.

b. In others since the first of the year, he had adopted a careful, almost conciliatory attitude toward the US.

c. Castro said he intended to deliver another note to the United Nations denouncing various "provocations and violations" against Cuba by the US.

d. He detailed various alleged provocations by US personnel at the Guantanamo Bay naval base and referred in passing--as he has occasionally in the past--to US violations of Cuban airspace.

e. These actions by the US, Castro charged, demonstrate its "increasing aggressiveness," and he called on the Cuban armed forces --including "our surface-to-air missiles"--to be prepared for any eventuality.

f. These last remarks do not seem to be in themselves a new departure in Cuban policy. The US press is overplaying them.

(Cont'd)

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g. Castro also attacked the Brazilian revolution at length, an indication that he regards it as a serious setback for Cuba.

2. Turkey

a. Student groups, inflamed by some of their professors and by elements of the press, may soon stage demonstrations against the US in Istanbul and Ankara.

b. Some of this no doubt results from a calculated effort by the government to put pressure on Washington.

c. On the other hand, there is also strong emotional reaction to what the Turks construe as US failure to support them over Cyprus.

d. We still do not think, however, that under present circumstances the Turks would pull out of NATO or expel US bases.

3. Syria

a. The Baath regime is facing the most serious threat since a Nasirite coup failed last July.

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b. It now appears that government security forces had more difficulty than they bargained for in quelling last week's disturbances in Hama.

c. Popular antagonism to the regime is growing, as is conservative opposition to its socialization programs.

d. Most of the merchants in Damascus have closed down their shops in protest against the government. People there are stocking food supplies in anticipation of trouble.

NOTES

- A. South Vietnam: There is friction between Deputy Prime Minister for Social and Cultural Affairs, Do Mau, and Defense Minister Khiem. Do Mau has been highly critical. [redacted]

[redacted] of his successor as chief of the military security service, who was appointed by Khiem.

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- B. Brazil Ambassador Gordon reports the contrast between the tone of his first private talk with Castello Branco and that of recent Goulart audiences was as day and night. Branco was "alert, attentive, intelligent and responsive."

C. [redacted]

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- D. Congo Adoula continues to talk of reshuffling his cabinet. Defense Minister Anany, one of the candidates for removal, has threatened to mount a coup rather than be forced out. [redacted]

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[redacted] Adoula was planning to keep Anany on in a lesser post.

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- E. South Korea The demonstrations continued again today. Police used tear gas to break up a protest made by 2,000 students demanding the release of those arrested yesterday.
- F. Iraq The Iraqi Kurds have now split into two factions. The militant wing, under the control of young, left-wing leaders of the Kurdish Democratic Party, wants to continue the fight for more autonomy. The other faction under Barzani, the long-time Kurdish leader, wants an early agreement with the government.
- G. Nationalist China - Congo (Brazzaville) Taipei finally severed relations with Brazzaville on 17 April after the Congolese foreign minister once again explicitly denied the existence of the Nationalist Government. Peiping has been confident the Nationalists would eventually pull out.
- H. USSR A Moscow broadcast this morning says that "peace-loving forces" in the US greeted with deep satisfaction the Soviet and US decisions to reduce production of fissionable materials for weapons. It cites favorable American references to both the US and Soviet announcements and quotes Fulbright's statement that this is a "hopeful development."

TOP SECRET

Preliminary analysis of Khrushchev's statement on a cut in the production of materials for nuclear weapons.

a. The two plutonium reactors on which Khrushchev says he is going to halt construction are probably the ones at Tomsk.

b. We had estimated that these reactors, which are dual-purpose (electric power as well as plutonium production), would become operational in 1966 or 1967 with a capacity of about 1,500 megawatts each.

c. It is not clear from Khrushchev's statement whether the Soviets intend to stop construction on the reactors as plutonium producers or stop work altogether.

d. Any suspension of construction should be evident in future photography.

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